



Community Engagement in the Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School Planning Process (August 2014)

In May 2014, DCPS announced a plan to re-envision Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School as an international studies campus (see DCPS website for more information¹) with a wide range of academic opportunities for our students to ensure that every student graduates from Roosevelt prepared for college and career success. As DCPS embarks on the process of Re-envisioning Roosevelt, we see participation from the surrounding community as vital to Roosevelt's success. The information below outlines how community members can play an active role throughout the planning and, equally important, the implementation of the new Roosevelt vision.

What does the Re-envisioning Roosevelt planning effort look like?

In anticipation of opening the doors of the new Roosevelt facility in August 2015, we will launch the academic planning process this September. The following are details about the planning process.

Who is involved in the planning process?

Current Roosevelt staff members and DCPS central staff members with expertise in curriculum development have come together to form the Roosevelt Academic Planning Team. This team will meet biweekly to draft a plan for Re-envisioning Roosevelt, and the Office of Planning and Postsecondary Readiness (OPPR) will facilitate these meetings in collaboration with Roosevelt leadership. Though the Roosevelt Academic Planning Team consists exclusively of content experts, community members are a critical part of the effort. As such, we plan to regularly consult the Roosevelt Community Cabinet (role and membership described below) and other community groups who want to contribute in order to incorporate their recommendations into the plan.

What has the Roosevelt Academic Planning Team been charged to do?

Beginning in September 2014, the team will meet biweekly to determine what the academic experience will look like, including curricular integration of the international studies theme, rich experiences in and outside of the classroom, and resource needs (e.g. textbooks, technology, staffing) that align with the improved academic experience. Each meeting will have a particular focus, and while the group will make preliminary recommendations on aspects of the planning process, we want to ensure we get community input on the decisions before moving forward with implementation. Ultimately, the planning group, with input from community members, will present a detailed plan for program improvement and theme integration for Roosevelt Senior High School to Chancellor Henderson for final approval.

How can I find out what's being discussed at these meetings?

Minutes for each meeting will be recorded and made available to community members who want to stay abreast of the discussions online here: dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/rsh. In addition, the Office of Planning and Postsecondary Readiness will provide regular updates at community meetings throughout Ward 4. Planning updates and informational events will also be posted via social media on Facebook (DC Public Schools) and Twitter (@dcpublicschools).

¹ Link to May 14, 2014 DCPS Press Release:

<http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Press+Releases+and+Announcements/Press+Releases/New+Programs+and+Approach+Proposed+for+Roosevelt+High+School+in+Ward+4>

How can you engage in the planning process?

There are several ways for community members to engage with the planning process, and we have described each below.

Roosevelt Community Cabinet

Every six weeks, the Office of Planning and Post-secondary Readiness (OPPR) will assemble a group of students, parents, and community members that represent the interests of the Roosevelt community. That group, the Roosevelt Community Cabinet, will consist of 2 current parents, 2 current students, 1 Roosevelt alumnus, 2 community stakeholders, and 1-2 parents from each of Roosevelt's designated feeder schools². Criteria for Roosevelt Community Cabinet members include (1) a vested interest in the programming at Roosevelt high school, (2) a basic knowledge about high school academic programming, and (3) a commitment to remaining involved throughout the planning year. Each Cabinet member will be tasked with two key responsibilities: (1) gathering feedback from the groups they represent and (2) sharing information learned during Cabinet meetings with those they represent. The Roosevelt Community Cabinet meetings will allow members to weigh in on recommendations made by the planning team and share their input on those ideas. Parent representatives from Roosevelt's feeder schools³ will be recommended by feeder principals, PTA presidents, and community leaders, and DCPS will select parents that meet the criteria above while representing a broad diversity of interests.

Community Group Meetings

In addition to the Roosevelt Community Cabinet, we want to give the broader Roosevelt community opportunities to engage in the planning process. Beginning in October, quarterly meetings will be held to gather input on key decisions, provide updates, and answer community member questions. These meetings will be open to all community members, and we encourage those with a vested interest in Roosevelt to take part. We will also make every effort to attend regularly scheduled ANC meetings, community group meetings, and feeder school PTA meetings when relevant to provide information. Meeting minutes and updates can be found on the Re-envisioning Roosevelt website: dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/rsh.

Surveys

We will also circulate surveys that are aligned to the topics that the academic planning team is discussing. Beginning in September, these surveys can be found online at our website: dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/rsh

Support in Program Implementation

When the international studies programming goes into effect at the beginning of school year 2015 – 2016, we would like to see the community embrace the new programming in variety of ways: providing support for our students in a variety of ways, spreading the word about the program to fellow community members, and volunteering at Roosevelt. As the Re-envisioning Roosevelt effort progresses, we will make available specific opportunities to engage in making this plan a reality.

Where can you find more information?

Please contact Anjali Kulkarni, Deputy Chief of School Planning and Implementation at anjali.kulkarni@dc.gov with questions or comments about community involvement in the Roosevelt planning process.

² Though there are no official feeder schools for Roosevelt High School currently, parents from Bruce-Monroe Elementary School, West Education Campus, Powell Elementary School, Truesdell Education Campus, and Raymond Education Campus are welcome to serve on the Roosevelt Community Cabinet and will heretofore be referred to as "feeder school parents" or "Parent Representatives from Roosevelt's feeder schools".